

Current Issues in PHARMACY

Qamar Uddin Ahmad



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Current Issues in Pharmacy

Editor

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CHAPTER 16

PHYTOCHEMICAL SCREENING EXPEDITION 2009: DRUG DISCOVERY FROM NATURE

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Introduction

Malaysia is a tropical country endowed with very rich and diverse species of flora with promising medicinal values, which are still fully untapped. The country also has a strong tradition in ethnomedical practices, many of which utilize the local flora. These two factors have initiated the research in natural products sciences, which provide an ideal common ground for collaboration between chemists, botanists and pharmacologists. In addition, phytochemical research on our local medicinal plants is an area of great potential that needs to be explored further. For that reason, Phytochemical Screening Expedition has been regularly organized as yearly programme at Kulliyyah of Pharmacy since 2009.

Back to history, a group of Natural Product Chemist from University Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) established this event in 1985. First meeting of the Natural Product Research group had published the first proceeding based on Phytochemical Screening Expedition finding. The identification and classification of plant reported 173 species of plants representing 51 families (Nordin & Laily, 1988). A total of 11 scientific expeditions which involved